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Pound it

Raine Nadeau makes a young fan's day with a fist bump at the S. G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. See more photos inside. /TIM YANO staff photographer

MH looks into writing a bridge naming policy

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

A Minden Hills snowmobile bridge may be nameless no more.

Neil Vanderstoop, the president of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association, broached in a letter to township council the possibility of naming a floating snowmobile bridge.

It has been suggested that the floating bridge be named the Bob and Gwen Bryant Memorial Bridge after one of the association's founding families.

Vanderstoop said the Bryants, who had a cottage on Canning Lake, worked tirelessly to lure winter tourism dollars to the area.

The association has been around for 53 years and the Bryants spent much of that time raising money for the group through running raffles and selling advertising in the annual trail guide.

"When they were not fundraising they were out there working in the bush clearing (trails), putting up signs, and whatever needed to be done to improve a trail," said John Enright, the club's past-president.

Given the township is a co-owner of the snowmobile bridge, its permission for the

see SLEDDERS page 2

Let's Get Local takes a hit

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Times Staff

"Who would want to do this?"

A fair question from Mary Douglas, the owner of Minden's Let's Get Local on Bobcaygeon Road, after her front window was vandalized on the early morning of Dec. 29.

"One of my staff got to work, and called me and said I better come in," Douglas recalled. "I thought the glass had maybe just cracked from the cold, but then I saw that someone had broken the window."

Douglas shared that nothing had been taken or moved from her store. "They didn't even get in," she said. "If they had, the alarm would have gone off." She assumes that the perpetrator was hoping the whole window would shatter, but took off when they found it was harder to break.

She was able to nail down a specific time that the event occurred, as the tenant residing above the establishment recalled three loud bangs at approximately 1:30 a.m. the morning of Dec. 29. While Douglas has cameras set up inside the store, they were offline at the time. She has since set up additional cameras outside the building as well.

Let's Get Local does double duty in the downtown core, with a wide array of convenience necessities, such as snacks, lottery tickets, tobacco products, and select packaged foods. On top of that, it also offers a one-stop shop for local artisan features, boutique gifts, and homemade meals. Douglas has diligently worked to feature the community of Minden through her products, and put work into the space; making it warm, friendly, and inviting to all who come in.

"I just feel horrible," she said. "I've put so much effort into making this a really nice store. A really nice storefront for downtown Minden, and this is discouraging."

> "I thought the glass had maybe cracked from the cold, but then I saw that someone had broken the window."
>
> — **MARY DOUGLAS, OWNER OF LET'S GET LOCAL**

On Jan. 8, the OPP released a press statement, outlining the incident at Let's Get Local, and noting that the investigation is ongoing. "At this time, investigators are actively looking for information that may lead to the identification of the suspect(s) responsible for this crime," it reads.

Considering nothing was taken and the identification of the perpetrator is unknown, Douglas says she just has to keep going. "There's nothing I can do about it," she shared, "so I just have to pick myself up and move on."

If you have information regarding this incident, please contact the Haliburton County OPP at (705) 286-1431 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Kawartha Haliburton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.khcrimestoppers.com. When you contact Crime Stoppers, you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.

Transparency paramount in naming assets

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

The total replacement cost for Minden Hills infrastructure assets is about $307 million.

Wendelin Lonergan, the township's finance director, delivered the township's updated asset management plan to council Jan. 9. Peter Simcisko, a managing partner at Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., walked council through the plan's details.

Transportation assets comprise the largest share of replacement cost at approximately $205 million or 67 per cent of the total estimated tab.

Facilities follow at $46.9 million or 15 per cent, wastewater assets cost about $28.4 million or nine per cent of replacement costs, and about $18 million or six per cent of the tab for water assets.

Fleet and equipment assets will require about $8.5 million to replace. That's three per cent of the total estimated bill.

Cynthia Fletcher, the township's CAO, said the municipality has been without an updated asset management plan for quite some time.

The main objective of an asset management plan is to use a municipality's best available information to develop a long-term plan for capital assets. The plan should provide a sufficiently documented framework that will enable continual improvement and updates of the plan to ensure its relevancy over years.

"This brings us into compliance (of provincial regulations) for our requirements for 2024 and allows us to go after some available funding," Fletcher said.

The municipality hired the outside economists to assist in developing the management plan. Following the completion of this plan, the township will focus on a comprehensive asset management plan that's required by July 1.

Core elements of the comprehensive asset management plan will include an update of asset-related data, filling of identified data gaps, identifying proposed levels of service, establishing lifecycle management strategies to achieve those service levels, and developing a financial strategy that incorporates financial sustainability and affordability factors specific to the township.

The best information available about the state of the township's roadways is from a 2021 road needs study.

"While best efforts have been taken to update the data that was used to develop this asset management plan, this plan is best viewed as a living document that will continue to be refined as newer, better information becomes available," according to a report to council.

Councillor Pam Sayne asked about including the state of boat launches and the replacement needs of the Snowdon Park shelter in the next phase of the asset management plan.

"There's a few things like that that can be costly when we're looking at budgets," she said.

Lonergan said the current phase of the plan shows what the municipality is required to track. Future iterations of the plan will include things like expected service levels.

"I can think of a number of things that are also asset categories," she said.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said there is much work to be done before July and the second phase of the plan.

"But will there be more detailed information on each asset?" McKelvey said. "Will we see a fleet plan where we know that the tandem is going to get replaced?"

"I think that would more come to a budgetary discussion," Lonergan said.

"One of the things the asset management plan has identified for staff is where we have gaps," Fletcher said. "This will be a living document and there will be supporting documents moving forward."

Sledders eye Pine Springs Road for parking area

from page 1

naming is required, he said.

"We also touched on the need for long-term parking and staging areas which is a separate conversation," Vanderstoop wrote. "We have several options for a location and a suggested means of getting a good portion of it funded.

"This would do so much for tourism in the area."

Councillor Ivan Ingram noted that there's a spot of property farther down the road near the former Sunny's Variety that's owned by the township.

"That could be a possibility for parking or staging (of snowmobile excursions)," Ingram said. "It's vacant now. It just needs a bit of clearing."

Mayor Bob Carter wondered if there was a municipal policy or process that governs the naming of infrastructure such as bridges. He's seen bridges on provincial highways that have been named for fallen police officers.

"I thought it may have been one of those bylaws from 1979 or something," he quipped.

"That's not a bad idea that we have a policy on it," Coun. Tammy McKelvey said.

She said the land of which Ingram spoke is a parcel that should be sold.

/FILE

The association has mentioned a location at the end of Pine Springs Road for parking. Algonquin Highlands does winter maintenance there, she said.

McKelvey suggested township staff reach out to Algonquin Highlands officials regarding the association's wishes.

"That seemed to be their focus point, that they wanted a parking location in the Pine Springs Road area," she said. "If we could just ask staff to follow up on that."

Coun. Pam Sayne said parking is an issue to which the municipality should put its attention.

"It's a bigger planning issue for our municipality because we don't want to end up with some of the situations we've seen in the past with parking for trails and vehicles on some of our roadways," she said. "That's important."

Sayne said the first step should be for the township to get an actual policy on the books about bridge naming.

"It needs to be very transparent to the rest of the community on why we're doing or not doing something," she said, and added that she supports naming the bridge after the Bryants who supported snowmobiling. That support has benefited local businesses.

"I like what the snowmobile association is trying to do in terms of saying, OK let's try to build Minden during our winter seasons by bringing more people here," Sayne said.

"If we don't create the policy, we should at least have something whereby we can have the discussion at council as to what we're going to do with this," Carter said. "We may handle this single request before we come up with a policy for the future."

Tom Prentice Sr. stands in the middle with sons, from left, Tom Jr., Tony, Jack, and Terry. /Submitted

Prentice family celebrates 100 years of trucking

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Whether it is through Prentice Street in Minden, a personal connection, or seeing a green truck on the roads, everyone in Minden knows the Prentice name in one way or another.

Some of Tom Prentice Sr.'s earliest memories are of shovelling gravel and carrying tools around for his family members. Throughout his entire life, Prentice has known that he wanted to continue in his family's footsteps.

Through Tom Prentice and Son's Trucking, Grading, and Excavating, Tom Prentice continues the family's century-long tradition of trucking.

In 1925, W.W. Prentice purchased his first truck that he would use to transport goods from the Gelert Railway Station to Haliburton County.

"That truck was also the first to plow from Halls Lake to Dorset," said Prentice.

After W.W.'s retirement, his youngest son Duncan took over the business and expanded it by adding two trucks and two bulldozers, renaming the business to D.B. Prentice Trucking and Bulldozing.

Tom Prentice Sr.'s uncle Morgan began his own trucking company named M.L. Prentice Dorset, later becoming Prentice Roads and Excavating. In the 1960s, Prentice Roads and Excavating switched from construction to snowmobile and trailer sales.

> "As a fmaily, we've stuck together. For a family of five to stick | together all these years, I'm really proud about that."
>
> — TOM PRENTICE SR.

After learning the tricks of the trade from his family, Tom Prentice Sr. started Tom Prentice Trucking and Grading.

"I could hardly wait to get out of school," said Prentice. "It was in my blood."

Tom Prentice and Son's Trucking, Grading, and Excavating is now an intergenerational family business, with his sons Jack, Tom, Terry, and Tony joining the business in the 1990s. As the name suggests, Tom Prentice and Son's Trucking, Grading, and Excavating offers a plethora of services including grading, excavating, landscaping, snowplowing, trucking, septic services, and material sales.

"I'm really proud of my boys," said Prentice. "As a family, we've stuck together. For a family of five to stick together all these years, I'm really proud about that."

Tom Prentice Sr. says that he heeds to the advice that his uncle Morgan gave him when he started Tom Prentice Trucking and Grading.

"He said, don't get too big. It's too much," said Prentice with a laugh.

Tom Prentice Sr. and his sons have seen great success over the years. While their business started with one truck and one grader, they have now expanded to six trucks, three graders, and various other equipment.

Tom Prentice Sr. will continue working with his sons at the family business for the foreseeable future. They have no desire to expand too quickly. Once the time comes, Jack, Tom, Terry, and Tony will share the business equally as successors.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **January 16 - Special Meeting**
- **January 30 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

MINDEN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• The Minden Hills Community Services Department has a new program schedule for drop-in programming. Check out the schedule online or at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

• Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena for a drop-in self guided snowshoe around the building and Minden Fairgrounds. Register and pick up snowshoes at the Arena Administration Desk.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• Artwork from the Gallery's permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952) as well as new acquisitions from local artists, are now on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

• Join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a Special Screening of Dear Audrey (2021) at the Cultural Centre on January 16 at 1:00pm. Directed by Jeremiah Hayes, this documentary follows acclaimed filmmaker Martin Duckworth as he cares for his wife, Audrey Schirmer, through the final stages of Alzheimer's disease. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).

• The UFO Craft Group will be meeting at the Cultural Centre on January 17 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm.
For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025 during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes are included in the following Schedules and will be available on our website:

• Schedule A Building – simplified wording for building permit minimum fee
• Schedule B Administration
• Schedule C Fire
• Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs and Facilities
• Schedule F Planning Department Fees
• Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
• Schedule I Water, Sewer, and Landfill

Members of the public wishing to **participate may attend in-person or join electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law. Registration is required for electronic participants. Please email admin@mindenhills.ca.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

Board improves means of No-Bus Day notices

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Students and parents have new zones to be on the watch for to learn about school transportation cancellations due to weather.

Parents and guardians of students educated at Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) facilities got word that transportation cancellations have been localized according to groups of schools.

The board's new zone approach to transportation cancellations came into effect Jan. 7.

"This means that on inclement weather days, the board will communicate which zone(s) is impacted by transportation cancellations," the board wrote in a letter to parents.

Haliburton County and area schools are corralled in Zone 3, which includes Archie Stouffer Elementary School; Cardiff Elementary School; Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Haliburton Highlands Secondary School; J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School; Stuart Baker Elementary School; and Wilberforce Public School.

If transportation is cancelled in one or more zones due to inclement weather, no buses will travel to any schools within the cancelled zone. A reminder that schools within the affected zones will remain open and learning opportunities will continue.

"Parents and guardians will be responsible for transportation of their students who are able to safely attend school on inclement weather days," the board said in a press release. "Drop-off and pick-up must occur in alignment with the regular school day start and end times."

Route specific information is available on mybustoschool.ca.

Zone 1 includes Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Bracebridge Public School; Gravenhurst High School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Glen Orchard Public School; Gravenhurst Public School; Honey Harbour Public School; K.P. Manson Public School; Macaulay Public School; Monck Public School; Muskoka Beechgrove Public School; Muskoka Falls Public School; and Watt Public School.

Zone 2 encompasses Huntsville High School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Huntsville Public School; Irwin Memorial Public School; Pine Glen Public School; Riverside Public School; Spruce Glen Public School; V.K. Greer Memorial Public School.

Zone 4 has Bobcaygeon Public School; Fenelon Falls Secondary School + Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Fenelon Township Public School; Lady Mackenzie Public School; Langton Public School; Ridgewood Public School; and Woodville Elementary School.

In Zone 5, there's Alexandra Public School; Central Senior School; Dr. George Hall Public School; Dunsford District Elementary School; Grandview Public School; I.E. Weldon Secondary School; Jack Callaghan Public School; King Albert Public School; Lindsay Adult and Alternate Education Centre; Leslie Frost Public School; Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute; Mariposa Elementary School; Parkview Public School; Queen Victoria Public School; Rolling Hills Public School; and Scott Young Public School.

MH sounds alarm on fire safety program

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The Minden Hills Fire Department worked throughout last year to make everybody SAFE.

Don Kruger, the township's fire chief, updated township council during its Jan. 9 meeting about last year's trial Smoke Alarms for Everyone (SAFE) program. He recommended that council make the program an ongoing safety initiative.

Twenty smoke alarms were installed in 19 Minden Hills homes. Last year's trial used 48 staff hours at a cost of $1,086.72.

On Jan. 25, 2024, council approved the launch of the program on a one-year trial basis. The Minden Hills Fire Department received 250 donated smoke alarms by the local Home Hardware outlet to make the program possible.

"A working smoke alarm is a basic, fundamental requirement for home fire safety," Kruger said.

Effective March 1, 2006, all Ontario homes had to have a working smoke alarm on every storey outside of all sleeping areas. This requirement covers single family, semi-detached and town homes owned, occupied, or rented.

"People are most vulnerable at night when sleeping," according to a report to council. "A working smoke alarm will detect smoke and sound an alert, allowing occupants to better react to the emergency."

The SAFE program engages with community members and educates them about the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes, trailers, and cottages; regular maintenance of these alarms; and home escape planning and being prepared for emergencies.

During 2024 the program provided voluntary fire inspections to 19 homes. Homeowners either contacted the fire department through the township's webpage, by phone, or during a safety blitz when fire prevention literature was distributed.

Fire personnel visited another 250 homes during a September safety blitz and the Test Your Smoke Alarm themed day.

The fire department feels there is a need for this service and additional public events to help spread the word will attract more support and use of this program.

"The fire department projects this investment will be rather consistent moving forward in future years due to the fact we will already be out in the community to promote fire safety or provincial programming," according to a report to council.

Kruger said personnel will continue to solicit donations to keep the program going. The fire department started with all 250 donated fire alarms at the station.

Councillor Tammy McKelvey suggested the fire department limit the number of fire alarms received from donors.

"At 20 a year, these are going to be expired," she said of the remaining alarms.

"That is certainly a possibility," Kruger said. "It just depends on how many we give out every year."

"I'm just wondering if they can be given back to Home Hardware to give us a smaller number every year sort of thing as we use them," McKelvey said.

"It's certainly something that can be looked at, but we don't know how many we're going to give out each year," Kruger said. "We'd rather have too many than not enough."

He said the fire alarms are usable for 10 years before they expire.

"We have a number of them that we can continue to give out for many more years," Kruger said.

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New town tax goes into the dirt

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The start of the new year also marked the start of a new industrial property class in Haliburton County.

Andrea Robinson said during county council's Jan. 8 meeting that the property class is comprised of the industrial portion of properties used for aggregate extraction.

Due to the county's provided 2025 transition ratio being higher than the allowable tax ratio range set by the Ministry of Finance and to keep consistent with the county's current practices, staff recommended a 30 per cent tax reduction be applied to this property class. That's similar to current Industrial classes, which include vacant units, excess land, and vacant land.

Providing a 30 per cent reduction would create an allowable tax ratio of 0.978620, Robinson said. The Ministry of Finance set the allowable tax ratio ranges for the new subclass at 0.6 to 1.1.

Of the county's total $9.63 billion in assessment, only $961,900 falls within the new property class and is responsible for about $2,500 of the $25 million tax levy.

Robinson said the new tax subclass and recommended tax ratio has a 0.01 per cent effect on the residential tax rate, making the 2025 total residential tax rate increase 4.83 per cent instead of the 4.82 per cent presented in this year's capital and operating budget.

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said he understands the provincial government is willing to spend county money and education money from taxes, but he wonders why the aggregate industry should have a tax break at all.

"I didn't know the aggregate industry was in so much trouble," he said.

He wondered why a 30 per cent reduction is allowed when 21 per cent reduction would bring the ratio to 1.1 tax ratio.

"It's a small amount of money, but it's a matter of principle," Carter said.

In effect, industry operators who are making money off aggregate will get a tax break and residential taxpayers will not get such a benefit.

Robinson said it is up to council to set the ratio at 1.1, which would be about a 22 per cent tax reduction.

"I just don't think that somebody who has got an industry that's a profit-making industry should be paying less tax than residential taxes," Carter said. "I don't know why we would give a tax break greater than we have to, particularly in light of our finances and our situation with infrastructure."

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said she doesn't disagree with Carter's point.

"I'm wondering whether, in a way, because the cost of road construction that we have right now is so high, if this could have a little bit of a positive impact on the cost of road construction," she said.

"What the ministry is intending to do with those savings, I'm not sure," Robinson said.

"I know that the ministry has consciously over a number of year done things to protect sources of granular material," Danielsen said.

Council agreed to set the 2025 tax rate ratio at 1.1.

Snowball rolls into Dorset

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Times Staff

Pizza on Earth showed off their snowman making skills last February with a pie-slinging snowman. /FILE

Mark your calendars, the Snowball is back.

Coming into its 33rd year, the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival, or known quite simply as "Snowball" to many, draws over 1000 people from across Ontario to celebrate the season. "It is always our biggest event of the year," said Sandra Rogers, the recreation coordinator for the Township of Algonquin Highlands, "and we have so many different activities planned."

The event came to fruition in 1991, after a group of dedicated volunteers got together to brainstorm a fundraising initiative for the Dorset Recreation Centre. What started as a small community event has quickly snowballed into a key contributor to the local economy; putting Dorset on the map for all the right reasons.

"The main focus of Snowball is to provide affordable family oriented entertainment," reads the Algonquin Highlands website, "to make Dorset a 'destination' and to bring the community together for a day filled with winter activity and fun."

And the volunteers make it happen. With entry to the Snowball granted with a five dollar button, visitors have access to the wide variety of events and experiences taking place over the course of two days.

Snowball always lands on the Family Day Weekend, which this year, kicks off on Valentine's Day. "On the Friday night there will be a skate party," said Rogers, "and that's the official start of Snowball." The evening will include a bonfire, live music, and hot chocolate.

Saturday morning starts with a pancake breakfast for all interested, before the day unfolds. Some of the activities planned for the day include the Snowball Parade through downtown Dorset, horse-drawn sleigh rides, cardboard tobogganraces, face painting, an interactive zoo, a silent auction, and a chainsaw carver in action.

The event concludes with Hockey Night in Dorset on Saturday night, with teams vying for the Dorset Cup at the Ice Palace on Main Street.

"We usually see between 12 to 15 hundred people come to the event over the course of the weekend," said Rogers, "and for a little town like Dorset, we think that's pretty impressive."

Rogers shared that the event would not happen were it not for the support of volunteers and sponsors. Currently the organizing committee is seeking additional volunteers to help out day-of. Contact Algonquin Highlands township if you are interested.

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In Other Words

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Happy Birthday Papa

MY GRANDFATHER celebrated his 88th birthday on Tuesday. As an octogenerarian, he has 62 more years of experience on this Earth than I do. He is also my only grandparent that is still alive. From growing up in poverty in Nova Scotia to travelling to Toronto with his brother, I am thankful for my grandfather every single day.

For this special occasion, we took him down south to Peterborough to the Red Lobster.

A true bluenoser with a love of seafood, nothing is closer to the authentic experience of the East Coast than Red Lobster.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

My grandfather has lived in Minden for 25 years. In my memory, my Papa was living far up north in the woods of Minden (not quite true).

Minden was a far off land from where I was raised. It was special, a forest-covered wonderland that I would only be able to visit during the summer and on special occasions like Christmas. For one summer, I lived with my grandparents and attended South Lake Road Bible Camp.

In my 26 years of life, my grandfather has taught me many things.

Overcoming loss

After my grandmother passed away, my grandfather met Elaine. While not married, I consider her my step-grandmother. My grandfather was married for 52 years before my grandmother's passing in 2013. In this time of healing from loss, my grandfather found companionship with a very kind hearted woman. I appreciate her family accepting my grandfather's like her own and it is pretty convenient we share our last name.

Sense of humour

No server is safe from him at the restaurant. With his fast wit, he always has a joke loaded in the chamber. For every occasion, he desires to make people laugh and enjoy themselves. It may be at the cost of embarrassing Elaine, but nothing will stop him from cracking a joke or two. He was the first person to teach me that a dentist's favourite time is tooth-hurty. A frequent visitor to bingo, Elaine tells me that his joking antics are not just for family. He is like that everywhere he goes.

Creativity

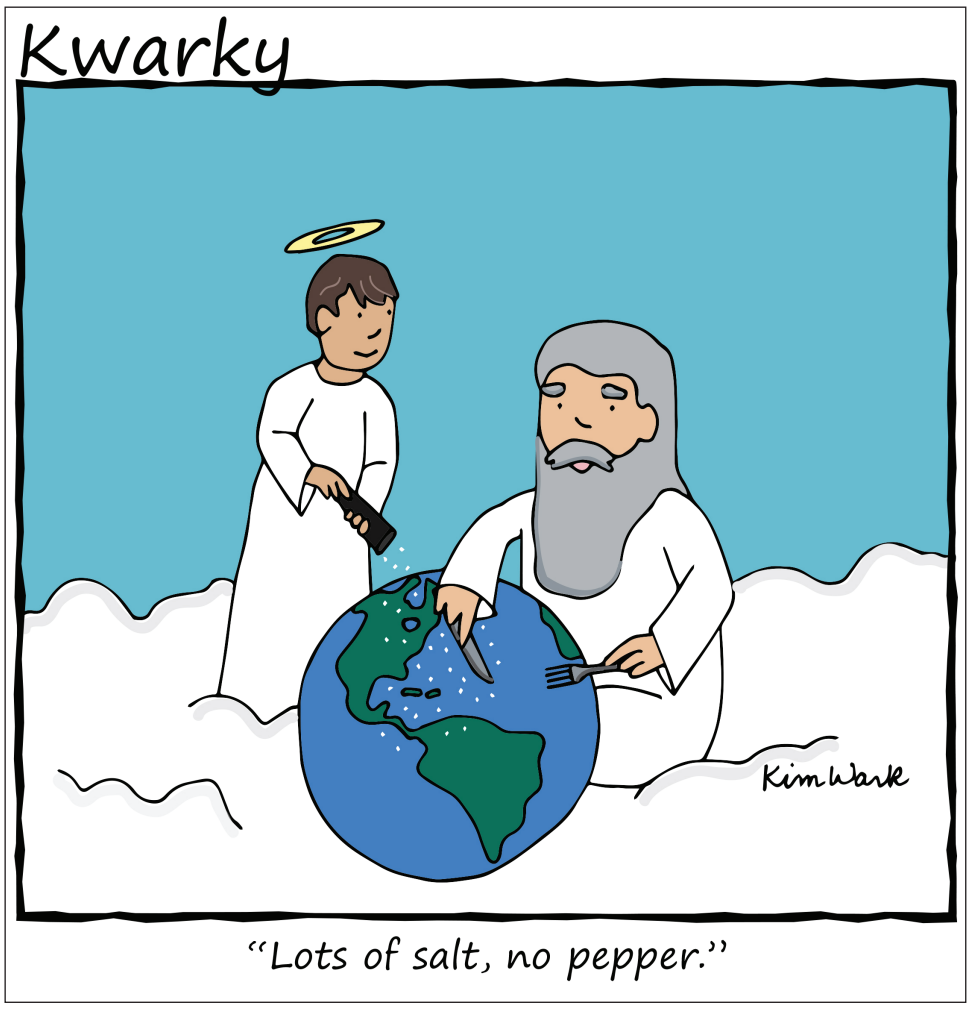
Like my father, my grandfather's house is covered in hand carved wagons, boats, and other works of art. As a kid, he was always in his workshop building a new lawn decoration. Nowadays, he is still building ornaments to decorate the outside of his apartment. When my father was young, he can remember my grandfather showing how to build a boat. Using curtain roads and curtains for the sails, it is my father's favourite memory of him. Everything that my father knows of woodworking, plumbing, and painting, he knows from my grandfather. I am lucky in that I have inherited the interest in woodworking, but I am still working on the artistic skills.

When I saw my grandfather this weekend, he told me that he reads every single one of my columns.and every story that I write.

Papa, this editorial is for you. Thank you for raising four wonderful kids. Thank you for putting family first throughout the years and showing kindness above everything else. You are my role model.

I hope that when I get to your age, I am at least a fraction as funny, kind, and loving as you are.

Happy Birthday!



Tackling a financial crisis

THE OTHER day while I was organizing my ice fishing tackle, Jenn said, "Wow! That box must have 200 lures in it."

"Don't be ridiculous," I replied. "It only has 192."

"That still sounds like an awful lot of ice fishing lures," she said. Which explains why I quickly stepped in front of the other four boxes.

I thought the crisis was averted, when, without warning, she asked the question feared by every ice angler.

"How many of those lures do you actually use?"

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Since we were not in an ice hut, I was not contractually obligated to eject her from the premises. Instead, I shook my head and muttered, "Never ask that question again."

"But…."

"Never … ," I said. "Trust me. It's for the best."

The truth is she asked a valid question. Unfortunately, it is also one that could lead to — not to overstate it — economic collapse in the ice fishing belt and beyond.

You see, if an ice angler answers the question honestly, your spouse will discover that each fishing box you own holds approximately 189 unused lures and three "Old faithfuls" that you tie on every time — and that is dangerous information.

What is so dangerous? Well, for starters, it could lead to countless ice anglers having their spending privileges revoked, especially if their spouses go online to see what each lure actually retails for, rather than the 29 cents the angler claimed he or she paid for it.

Any economist worth their salt will tell you the revocation of spending privileges from even as little as three anglers would have a grave, and potentially, long-term effect on our national economy.

That is why, in a case like this, dishonesty is the best policy.

I mean, had I been forced to answer the question, I would have had to lie for the greater good.

During the emergency scenarios we train for between bites, my ice angling group has determined that, if you are forced to answer such a question, it is best to answer in the following manner.

"How many do I use? All but three, but they are family heirlooms passed on to me by my dearly beloved great-grandfather…"

(At this point it is best to turn away and dap your eyes to create an uncomfortable atmosphere for follow up questions.)

Anyhow, that's the way we word it during our on ice emergency preparedness role-playing sessions. This is an excellent answer, but it hinges on you taking all of your lures out of the packages.

Then to further avert a national crisis, we add, "Look, I know 1,000 or so lures seems like a lot. And I'll concede I probably shouldn't have spent almost 15 of my hard-earned dollars to acquire all of them, but I wanted a legacy I could pass along too."

At this point, if your spouse is one of those Pointdexters who is good at math, he or she might say, "I thought you bought every lure for 29 cents each."

The proper response to that is, "That's what they're worth… but I always wait until they go on sale."

Luckily, most spouses do not exhibit too great an interest in their spouses stockpile of ice fishing lures. In fact, as far as I can ascertain, the last time this was the case was in late 1928, just before the Great Depression.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Goodbye to all that

ONE OF the pleasures of tidying up, getting organized – as is recommended to begin a new year – is finding the treasures that were stored for exploration in that never-never land of time permitting. On the shelf, books bought and moved from bedside to bookshelf without their spines being cracked. In the computer, saved articles that (repeatedly, it seems) boggle the mind with thorough research and titillate the brain with love of language.

One such find in my recent spate of exemplary new year tidying was a 2022 New Yorker article by Parul Sehgal about the destruction of narrative culture by the current besottedness with trauma as a crucial component of any plot. No story is worth telling, he decries, without a backstory of trauma. No character is believable without visible tentacles to negative formative events. No behaviour is comprehensible without being connected to an historical injury.

Damn right, I thought! I am so tired of having to accommodate PTSD, complex PTSD, all the mini variations. Of feeling guilty for not having an appropriately traumatic creation story on which to hang my existence: how could I be human if I am not withered or misshapen by misfortune? Escaping trauma is the ultimate privilege to which is attached a high price of guilt.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

But what if I hadn't escaped trauma as much as absorbed it in a positive rather than negative way? What if I developed resilience by finding goodness in bad things? Developed strength through managing adversity? Celebrated surviving rather than suffering?

I recently watched *Testament of Youth*, a close-to-the-bone movie of Vera Britten's book of that name, which I read and loved years ago and have on our shelves. It shows the heart-wrenching reality of privileged boys signing up for the Great War that was supposed to be over by Christmas but buried the world in evilness and inhumanity for four years. Vera's brother, her fiancé, their/her friend were killed. She experienced war directly: she nursed the wounded and dying from both sides in Britain and in the mud of France. In retrospect she would say war destroyed an entire generation of men, one way or another. She became a powerful advocate for peace – but not powerful enough to prevent the disastrously punitive Treaty of Versailles that laid the foundation for the next war.

Vera Britten was grievously injured in body, soul and spirit by her experience. She was traumatized. She did not, however, expect accommodation as she nursed her injuries. Rather she channeled her pain and anger into action. She did what she could. She did not achieve her goal but she made a difference.

Resilience used to be a goal of life, communicated through a thousand maxims: Make the best of a bad situation. What doesn't kill you makes you strong. You learn more from failure than success. Life ain't fair. There is no shame in losing but there is shame in not trying.

I think, as we head into what by all accounts will be difficult times, that we need to rethink our relationship with adversity and (re)learn to love resilience.

Historically we admire people of courage and ingenuity. Pioneers. Immigrants. The boot-strappers. The bloody but unbowed. The persevering. It didn't mean that we were unfeeling or unempathetic to those who were sidelined or felled by life. But I think we expected even them to do their part to the utmost of their ability. We recognized that, short of death, incapacity is only a part of the whole. There are things each of us can do and things we can't, and there is a personal and social necessity for each to do what we can. Because what is life worth if we can make no contribution? How is uselessness ever a happy companion?

Let me be clear that I think trauma is a real and harmful thing, and that I have empathy for those who experience it. But let me be equally clear that I have admiration and gratitude for those who seek to digest their experience into a valued part of who they are, something that adds salt to their soup, puts muscle on their bone, gives colour to their lives.

And, to return to a point Sehgal made in his article, let me encourage the art of not explaining everything. Writing, he says, that leaves gaps for the reader to ponder as they have inclination is respectful writing. It presumes readers have something to offer to round out the story and that they want the challenge and the freedom to do so.

So, I think, in life. If you need to explain why you are interesting, you're probably not.

Minden Memories

A man shoes a horse at a lumber camp. Shoeing involves fitting and nailing metal horseshoes onto the hooves to protect them from wear and provide better traction, especially in icy or rough conditions. This was crucial for horses used to haul logs safely through the harsh winter terrain. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

letters to the editor

AH rezoning sets harmful precedent

To the Editor

We write to express our deep concern about a potential rezoning decision in Algonquin Highlands that could set a harmful precedent for the Gull River Watershed. We are unsure how many people are yet aware that the township is considering rezoning a nearly 6-acre SR2 waterfront property to RU (rural), which would allow for various uses, including animal husbandry.

This property is only 70 meters from the shoreline, far short of the required 150-meter setback. Recent unauthorized animal raising on this land has already led to raw pig waste being spread across large areas, potentially contaminating our lake and those downstream, the properties on which the runoff travels through, and of prolonged pungent odor for the residents.

The property's sandy soil is directly on top of bedrock, and its elevated position from the shoreline creates a direct runoff path to the lake. With just one inch of rainfall, approximately 172,000 gallons of water could flow into the lake, carrying harmful nitrogen, phosphorus, and pathogens from animal waste. Studies show that such runoff can affect water quality over 200 km downstream.

The urgency of this issue is underscored by the recent blue-green algae blooms found in Algonquin Highland lakes. Every decision affecting our lakes and watershed is crucial due to the cumulative effect of pathogens/harmful bacteria in our interconnected lake system. It is imperative we uphold our current By-laws and Official Plan.

The Zoning By-laws implement the objectives and policies of the County's Official Plan. This rezoning application contradicts numerous By-laws and the Official Plan. This has been confirmed by multiple qualified planners and a civil engineer. Due to the very real impact this decision will have on our lakes, has the Council done their due diligence and asked for all the possible scientific evidence before making this decision? A complete study would include a hydrogeological, a geotechnical study, and an environmental study that spans all four seasons to monitor the environment. We know several endangered species live in that area. Has that been considered? A peer review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be done. This would be an independent evaluation conducted by external experts to ensure the quality, reliability, and credibility of the EIS. This process verifies that the study's methodologies, data, and conclusions meet best practices and are scientifically sound. Property owners need to speak up for their lakes and the environment. It is essential that we all let our elected officials know how much we care and are concerned about the future of Algonquin and Haliburton Highlands.

Cheryl and JD Morrow
Algonquin Highlands

See page 8 for more letters

Lakes need to be protected

To the Editor

I am currently a Lake Steward for Halls Lake and have been for many many years. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed rezoning of a property from Shoreline Residential (SR) to Rural (RU) in our community. While I understand the need for land-use adjustments to accommodate growth or other needs, this particular change will have significant environmental repercussions, especially for the quality of our lake and its ecosystem. Rezoning from Shoreline Residential to Rural often entails changes in land use, such as increased agricultural activity or reduced restrictions on shoreline development. These activities will lead to higher nutrient runoff into the lake, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, which are the primary contributors to the growth of harmful blue-green algae blooms (cyanobacteria). These blooms release toxins harmful to humans and animals, posing risks to public health and aquatic life. Maintaining natural vegetation along shorelines and limiting nutrient inputs are critical measures for preventing these blooms.

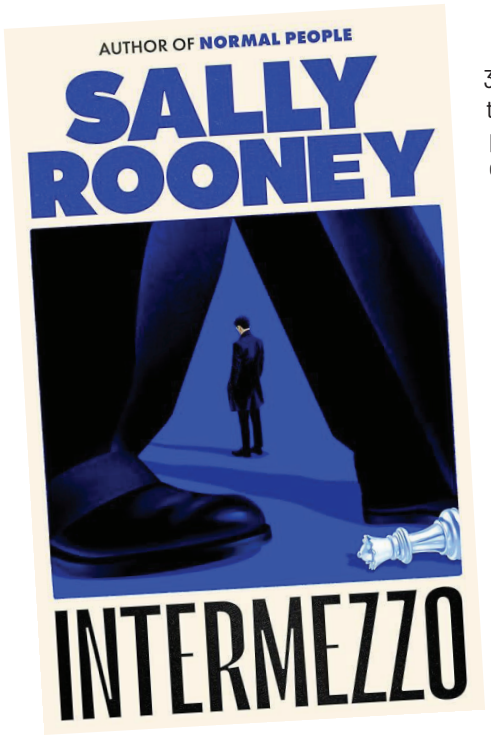
Rezoning that potentially increases nutrient loading could undermine these efforts, leading to more frequent and severe algae outbreaks. Furthermore, the current Shoreline Residential zoning includes provisions that help protect water quality, such as minimum setbacks from the water and limits on lot coverage. These regulations are essential for preserving the lake's ecological integrity. Transitioning to Rural zoning will weaken these protections, increasing the risk of environmental degradation.

Halls Lake is the main source for the regeneration of the rare Haliburton Gold indigenous trout that the Haliburton Hatchery and the MNR are striving to preserve. We can't afford the risk of reducing the high water quality of the lake for the Golds. Water quality is also of concern to the folks who own properties on this lake and all the lakes down stream from here.

I urge local officials to carefully consider the long-term implications of this rezoning. Our lakes are invaluable natural resources. Protecting them should remain a top priority. Let us ensure that any development decisions align with sustainable practices that safeguard our water bodies for future generations.

Ted Burbidge
Algonquin Highlands

HCPL's Book of the Week



Two brothers, 22-year-old Ivan and 32-year-old Peter, are navigating life after their father's death. Ivan, a chess champion, begins a relationship with 36-year-old Margaret while grieving. Meanwhile, Peter, a lawyer, juggles two relationships: one with a 23-year-old college student and the other with his ex-girlfriend and longtime love. For two grieving brothers and the people they love, this is a new interlude—a period of desire, despair, and possibility; a chance to find out how much one life might hold inside itself without breaking.

An exquisitely moving story about grief, love and family, from the global phenomenon *Sally Rooney, Intermezzo* is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Housing and Homelessness survey open to the public

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

On Jan. 2, the City of Kawartha Lakes opened their Housing and Homelessness Assessment to the public.

Since January 1, 1999, the City of Kawartha Lakes has been the provincially designated Municipal Service Manager for the administration and delivery of Housing and Homelessness services under the Housing Services Act ("the Act") within the municipality and the County of Haliburton.

Michelle Corley, the municipality's Human Services Manager, Housing position has been delegated with the responsibility to establish and monitor Service Manager policies and procedures to ensure that all legislative requirements are implemented.

The responsibilities of the Service Manager are mandated by the Province, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) under the Act. The Act and related regulations provide the legislative framework for the provision of Housing and Homelessness programs and services and define the operational guidelines and directives that support the Service Manager role.

The City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Haliburton are working collaboratively on these issues. A formal joint advisory committee which includes senior staff and elected officials from both regions has been created, as well as a joint agreement that includes a cost-share arrangement.

"Additionally, the municipality frequently connects with senior Haliburton County staff and attends County Council meetings to discuss significant decision units, as well as presentations related to the annual municipal budget," said Corley.

"We are required by the Province to have a 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Our current plan (2020-2029), including the current affordable housing targets was adopted by Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County Councils in 2019. Since then, significant social and economic changes have occurred. Given this, and along with our obligation to update the plan every five years, we are currently taking steps to refresh our plan and strategy,"

> "There is significant importance in addressing housing affordability in our communities, as housing affordability closely supports community wellbeing.
>
> — **MICHELLE CORLEY, HUMAN SERVICES MANAGER**

said Corley. "The completion of an updated Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment is one of the first stages of this work."

Last fall, the City of Kawartha Lakes received community engagement to help inform their Housing and Homelessness Needs Assessment. Their consultant team spent time in Haliburton County speaking with individual residents, as well as conducting interviews with community stakeholders, said Corley.

This consultation is continuing with the housing survey. This survey asks participants a variety of questions including where they live, their place of work, level of concerns about affordable housing, perceived homelessness in your community, personal housing challenges, as well as personal details on ethnicity, age, and status as an immigrant, refugee, or asylum seeker. The survey will remain open until the end of January and it is open to all residents of both regions.

So far, Corley and their team says that they have identified four key issues:

Concerns around housing affordability

"Community members noted that housing costs have risen steadily over the past few years, making it increasingly challenging to find suitable, affordable options," said Corley. "Many residents shared that existing social assistance rates are often out of step with current market rents."

Growing homelessness and housing instability

"Participants pointed to an apparent increase in individuals and families experiencing homelessness, citing both visible needs in urban centers and more discreet situations in rural areas," said Corley. "Harsh winter conditions further highlight the difficulty of securing safe and stable housing."

Urban-Rural Service Gaps

"Stakeholders emphasized that rural communities face added challenges due to limited housing stock, fewer support services, and sparse transportation options," said Corley. "Covering a large geographic region complicates coordinated service delivery."

Need for more streamlined supports

"Many suggested stronger collaboration among municipal, provincial, and community partners to develop coordinated solutions."

"There is significant importance in addressing housing affordability for our communities, as housing affordability closely supports community wellbeing. Not all aspects of housing affordability can be influenced by municipalities, but we want to ensure that all relevant municipal policies and programs in the City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Haliburton are well-established and prioritize and support affordable housing," said Corley.

The next steps to refresh their plan and strategy will be to closely analyze and review community needs, in accordance with the current Housing and Homelessness Assessment. Additional steps will include the development of affordable housing modelling scenarios, detailed financial plans, and to meet affordable housing targets.

"Through this work significant engagement with County of Haliburton staff will occur, with decision units presented to County Council later this year," said Corley.

The City of Kawartha Lakes hopes to increase the amount of publically-available data on housing and homelessness in 2025. This will include some of the data received from the assessment.

"We want to ensure that wherever possible, programs, partnerships and future investments, are targeted to priority community populations." said Corley.

"For small, rural municipalities with limited assessment bases, the revenue raising capacity of property tax is limited, compared to more populated urban centres that also have large commercial tax levy opportunities," said Corley. "A recent report that went to the Ontario government shows a significant increase in rural homelessness. We plan to echo that messaging in the needs assessment and subsequent refreshed Plan, to support data-led decisions and effective advocacy."

The report, titled "Municipalities under pressure: The human and financial cost of Ontario's homelessness crisis" was published on Jan. 9, 2025. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), in partnership with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) selected HelpSeeker, a social innovation company as "the successful proponent to quantify current and projected homelessness, identify and cost provincial-level solutions to achieve functional zero by 2030, and determine the investment gap between current and required funding across all government levels," says the report.

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April 2024 Year in Review

Tara and Andrew Schroeder stand outside their new food truck, The Mason Jar, just before opening day. /FILE

Seasonal resident Brent Bowes views the eclipse in St. Catherines. /FILE

OPP faced off against Archie Stouffer's Grade Eights at S.G. Nesbitt Arena this year. /FILE

ARC to launch new name at spring fundraiser

Abbey Retreat Centre announced that it's name was going to change. The new name was to be unveiled at the No One Dances Alone event held on Friday, April 12 at the Haliburton Legion. Cancer was desired to be in the new name for identity and fundraising purposes. "It's been a whole community project. Ninety nine names came in, and then we've had four small groups to narrow them down, working with themes and other parameters," said Barb Smith Morrison, director of ARC. "If I could emphasize anything, it's the huge joy of being part of an organization that's so community-oriented and collaborative," said Smith Morrison.

Minden Mercantile's first chicken day goes egg-cellently

Minden Mercantile had its first chicken pickup day of 2024. Since purchasing the Mercantile three and a half years ago, Marc and Cyndi Wilkens have expanded the business and have been met with great success. Several homesteaders shared their desires to live off the land, raise their own food, and take care of their animals.

Minden Hill launches SAFE project

Minden Hill's Fire Department started an initiative to supply smoke alarms for everyone. Minden Home Hardware donated 250 smoke alarms towards the initiative. "This is a free program that we're offering through the township," said acting fire chief Robert Thibert. "Minden is no stranger to fatal fires. My goal when I came here was to have that number at zero and remain there." "We've developed a community safety team with five firefighters, and when a smoke alarm program request comes in, we send a couple of them to go and engage in some fire safety communications and to install an alarm if needed," said Thibert.

Parents angered over bussing changes

Elementary students as young as the age of four years old will be required to walk if they live within 1.6 kilometres from their school. "Over the past several years, TLDSB has been reviewing historical exception areas with previously identified conditions. These were areas where students may not have been expected to walk to school. Transportation Services, in consultation with the TLDSB senior administration, have reviewed exception areas annually including in Bracebridge, Huntsville, Kirkfield, Kilworthy, Fenelon Falls, and this year Haliburton, to determine if the conditions still exist and make changes where appropriate," said Carolynne Bull, manager of communications for TLDSB.

May 2024 Year in Review

Alexander Dacunha shows two young visitors how paramedics monitor your heart for First Responders Day. /FILE

A cyclist lets you know they are A-OK while riding with the Real Easy Ryders. /FILE

Cottage succession planning information at your fingertips

Anthony VanLieshout published his book Cottage Succession Planning: Don't let the government inherit your cottage, which offers tips and information for families that find themselves ready to list their cottage for sale. "You come across a lot of family situations when selling their cottage or home, and often a lot of those emotions are associated with cottages moreso because it's a place of recreation. It's usually the place where a family gets together more often," he said. Succession planning is important to save money in the long run when inheriting a cottage. "For a lot of the older generation, the equity that they have in their cottage is the main part of their retirement portfolio, and they need that money."

Marina sale stymies boaters' access to lakes

The marina had closed which had for many years served Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung and Boshkung. The sale of the property caused an uproar from property owners with no way to remove their boats from the waters."It's not our responsibility to completely resolve an issue that is actually in Minden Hills," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen, and added that there are many Algonquin Highlands taxpayers who are affected by the change in lake access. "That's where my idea (is) that there's shared responsibility."

Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club wheely excited to kick off 2024

The Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club kicked off their 2024 riding season on Tuesday May 7. Over 40 people came to the Lochlin Community Centre on that Tuesday morning. "Last year we had 159," said Lee Ann Cruz, current president of Haliburton Real Easy Ryders Cycling Club. "We'll probably reach that or surpass that this season. Some people join later, once they are up to their cottage on May long weekend." This year, they had around 136 members.

Porch Doctor seals the fate of boathouses in Haliburton County

The new business Porch Doctor began operation in Algonquin Highlands. "For the most part, the product is not widely used in Ontario. It comes from B.C.. For the last five years since we started, we have had the highest google reviews and took on the most work," said Shannon Hulme. "It is a complicated process to install. Basically, you need to be qualified and experienced in it and it is a very messy process so it is less desirable." Porch Doctor exclusively uses Flexstone Coatings for sealing decks, boat houses, docks, and porches.

Above, Molly McInerney has renamed Molly's Bistro Bakery to Molly's Market Bakery. She offers a wide selection of frozen and pre-prepared foods for customers to take home and enjoy. /FILE

Left, Opal and Iris offer Koopa the red foot tortoise dandelion flowers at the Minden Cultural Centre's Season opening celebration on Saturday. Koopa is a team member of Browning Reptiles. /FILE

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June 2024 Year in Review

Molly's starts anew as Market Bakery

This June marked the 14th anniversary of Molly owning and operating Molly's in Minden. Molly's Bistro Bakery was now changed to Molly's Market Bakery. "Times have changed sadly. Everyone is having the same trouble with staffing and I couldn't do it," said McInerney. "This was what I was doing during COVID-19 as well, so I just expanded on that. I had to make the decision to make a move." Molly is actively looking to sell the operation. "You want to buy a restaurant?" asked Molly. "All the tables are in the shed, they're ready to move back in here."

Local school board sues social media companies

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board joined other Ontario boards in a lawsuit against social media companies. The local board brought a lawsuit against Meta, Snapchat, and TikTok."As parents/guardians, many of you know firsthand the impact that social media products have had on students," said Wes Hahn, TLDSB's education director. "In fact, it's rewiring the way they think, act, behave, and learn.

Descendants from the Nine Ships: the search for Peter Robinson settlers

The Greater Harvey Historical Society began their search for descendants of the Nine Ships. With many having personal connections to the settlers, teh historical society is partnering with Kawartha Ancestral Association (KARA) and other efforts in Peterborough to bring descendants together with a reunion event in 2025. "Everybody knows that people come from immigration, that is what our society is primarily built on. It is a unique, large group that came," said Janice Stange.

ICCT plans picnic for 150th anniversary of Icelandic settlers in Kinmount

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto celebrated Icelandic National Day with their Icelandic National Day Picnic held in Kinmount. "It is a public event. We decided to hold the event in Kinmount and want people to show up. Many people will show up out of interest. It is such an incredible village, historically," said Gwen Morgan president of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. History of the Icelandic settlements in the area as well as the monuments to the plights of the Icelandic settlers were discussed.

Minden's Swimmer Girl received an ugrade last year after collapsing during a storm. /FILE

Members of the Greater Harvey Historical Society pose for a photo to advertise their search for Peter Robinson settlers. /FILE

Volunteers serve food at an ASES Open House. /FILE

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Huskies lose 6-1 against Jr Canadiens

Huskies put up a fight

Despite their valiant effort, Huskies could not defend against the Toronto Jr Canadiens on Saturday. and lost 6-1./TIM YANO

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

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Homelessness report misses social assistance needs: coalition

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario's recent homelessness report has drawn considerable concern from a group lobbying to improve social assistance.

The Raise The Rates Coalition said in a press release that the AMO report is a cause for great concern. In particular, the report fails to identify poverty-level social assistance rates as a primary driver of the province's homelessness crisis.

Ron Anicich, the coalition's coo-chairperson, said that, while the association identifies the growing scale of homelessness in Ontario, proposed solutions ignore social assistance rates that condemn recipients to absolute poverty as an immediate cause of homelessness.

"No amount of new housing alone will solve homelessness when Ontario Works recipients are expected to survive on $733 per month in a province where even a bachelor apartment costs triple that amount," Anicich said.

The Raise The Rates Coalition is a collective lobbying to have the level of social assistance funding compatible with the current economy.

The coalition notes that while AMO calls for $13 billion in new housing investments, the association remains silent on the need to raise social assistance rates that have lost more than 40 per cent of their purchasing power since the former premier Mike Harris-era cuts of the 1990s.

The Ontario Disability Support Program rate of $1,368 per month and Ontario Works rate of $733 leave recipients with no choice but homelessness or deep housing insecurity, Anicich said.

"AMO's reluctance to address social assistance rates as part of the scope of this research reflects a troubling disconnect from the reality faced by hundreds of thousands of Ontarians," he said.

"Municipal service managers across Ontario know that their shelters are filled with people receiving social assistance. They know their housing waiting lists are dominated by social assistance recipients."

The AMO report and the Raise The Rates Coalition's response to it are part of lobby effort to improve social assistance measures that has been gaining momentum.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Public Health Unit, which recently officially merged with the Peterborough Public Health Unit, decided in September 2024 to join the campaign for a guaranteed basic income for everybody.

The campaign is an effort to have Ontario municipal and county councils get behind a proposed National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act.

The proposed legislation calls on government to "determine what constitutes a livable basic income for each region in Canada, taking into account the goods and services that are necessary to ensure that individuals can lead a dignified and healthy life, as well as the cost of those goods and services in accessible markets."

It calls for the creation of national standards for health and social supports that complement a guaranteed basic income program

For its part, the coalition asks that social assistance rates be doubled and that annual increases to address inflation be automatic. The group also believes a housing benefit should reflect actual market rents.

"Municipalities cannot solve homelessness while ignoring the poverty enforced by provincial social assistance rates," Anicich said. "AMO's voice could be powerful in demanding adequate rates. Instead, they've chosen to remain silent about this fundamental cause of the crisis they seek to address."

Like a Bob Ross dream

The sun sets over a snow-covered Minden Hills. /Photo by Guenter Horst

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Youth Unlimited's Bridge Youth Centre Open House
When: Saturday January 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Where: 2 Victoria St.
Please park at rotary parking lot so accessible parking is available for those who need it.

The Wilberforce Heritage Guild invites you to attend our 2025 Annual Meeting
When: Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7 p.m.
Where: The Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum, 2314 Loop Road, Wilberforce ON.
Everyone Welcome. For information contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Understanding your Youth: How to give support through challenging times
When: Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.
Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton
A discussion with Rachelle Stephens and Shannon Norris, who are child, youth and family therapists with Point in Time, who will lead a conversation focused on ideas of good practice, guidance and available resources for parents. A continuing series on "Making our Communities Better Places", and will be opened with music by the Porter Brothers. Open to all, no admission charge, light refreshments provided.

Recurring events

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome! **Seniors Chair Exercises**
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

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R.I.D.E. check leads to impaired driving charge

Members of the Haliburton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged a Minden resident with an impaired operation related offence as the result of a R.I.D.E. program.

On Jan. 9, at approximately 11:59 a.m., Haliburton OPP officers were conducting a R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) spot check in the area of Water Street in the Township of Minden Hills. A vehicle entered the area and was met by the officers. After a brief conversation, officers were quickly led to an impaired driving investigation.

As a result of the investigation, a 63-year-old resident of Minden was charged with the following offence:

• Operation while impaired - blood concentration (80 plus)

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date. Until then the accused's driver's licence is suspended for 90 days, and the vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days.

Members of the Haliburton OPP are committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities. Officers value your contribution to building safe communities. If you suspect someone is driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol call 9-1-1. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.khcrimestoppers.com.

Submitted

Three impaired drivers charged in a week

The week of Dec. 15 to 21, 2024 had been busy in Haliburton County with officers making three arrests for impaired driving.

On Dec. 15, 2024, just after 1:48 p.m., Haliburton OPP officers received a traffic complaint about a possible impaired driver in the village of Minden. Haliburton OPP officers located the vehicle in question on Highway 35 and conducted a traffic stop. After a brief conversation the officers were quickly led to an impaired driving investigation. Through investigation the driver was charged with an impaired driving offence.

A 68-year-old female from Minden was charged with:

• Operation while impaired - blood concentration (80 plus)

On Dec. 18, 2024, at 12:13 p.m., Haliburton OPP officers received a traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver on Highway 35 in Minden. Haliburton OPP located the vehicle in question on County Road 21 and conducted a traffic stop. Through investigation the driver was charged with impaired driving offences.

A 56-year-old male from Minden was charged with:

• Operation while impaired - blood concentration (80 Plus)
• Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
• Operation while prohibited
• Driving while Suspended - Highway Traffic Act Offence

On Dec. 21, 2024, at 10:07 a.m., Haliburton Highlands OPP officers conducted a traffic stop on Bobcaygeon Road in the Village of Minden. The driver emitted an odour of alcohol and through investigation the driver was charged with an impaired driving offence.

A 59-year-old male from Minden was charged with:

• Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 Plus)

All accused parties named above have been released and will appear before the Ontario Court of Justice at a later date. Until then they face 90-day driver's licence suspensions and seven-day vehicle impoundments.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP remains vigilant in their goal to take alcohol & drug-impaired drivers off our roads through strict enforcement and public education. If you suspect someone is driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, please call 9-1-1 to report it.

Submitted

Sudoku brought to you by

SUDOKU

6		2				7		
					2	8		
			3					
				9			6	7
1				4				
5		8				2		4
				3				
		7	6	2			4	
3							9	5

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Welcome to Rotary

Minden Rotary kicked off the New Year last night by inducting Jeannine Espie as a new member and honouring Sally Moore with a Polio Plus membership and pin. Everyone enjoyed the evening with a pasta dinner, Fielding's wine and shared their holiday stories. For more information about Minden Rotary please visit their website at www.MindenRotary.ca. /Submitted

Community Coffee House resumes

Shannon Norris, a Child, Youth and Family Therapist with Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, and Madison Turpin, Mental Health and Substance Use Clinician with the Youth Hub, will lead a conversation on the topic of "Understanding Youth: How to Give Support Through Challenging Times" on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Schofield Room at the Haliburton Legion, at 719 Mountain St.

They will be preceded by the Porter Brothers: Steve, a guitarist, song-writer, along with George, with his silky melodic voice, who will begin the evening with a selection of harmonies and music in a variety of forms.

The conversation about how we can all play our part to understand and support what youth in our community are experiencing, including such issues as anxiety, depression, anger, bullying, and identity, will then be addressed. Shannon and Madison plan to share good practices, guidance and available local resources, and will particularly direct their presentation toward parents, grandparents and guardians.

This topic follows the presentation at the June Coffee House by Mary Sisson of the Youth Hub on Creating Places of Support in the field of Youth Mental Health and Social Media, and is part of a series of topics related to making our communities better. Previous presentations under this heading have included Finding One's Own Power to be a source for change in our communities, A Community Response to the Drug Poisoning Crisis, and The Power of One related to the environment. Monthly presentations on a variety of topics are planned until June.

These gatherings are free of charge, open to all, with light refreshments available, and are hosted by the Baha'is of Haliburton to provide a place for safe and healthy discussion on issues of interest in the support and building of community.

Submitted

Tips to stay linked in and safe online

This event will now be held at the Minden Community Centre at 55 Parkside Street in Minden on Wednesday, Jan. 15 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Interested participants can register for the event over email by contacting atachhevents@gmail.com or by calling Connie Wood at 705-457-7215 . Attendees can also join over Zoom. Molly's Bistro Bakery will serve a delicious meal.

Submitted

SUDOKU SOLUTION

6	3	2	8	1	4	7	5	9
4	1	5	9	7	2	8	3	6
7	8	9	3	5	6	4	2	1
2	4	3	1	9	8	5	6	7
1	7	6	2	4	5	9	8	3
5	9	8	7	6	3	2	1	4
8	6	4	5	3	9	1	7	2
9	5	7	6	2	1	3	4	8
3	2	1	4	8	7	6	9	5

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Successful applicants will possess a valid driver's licence (AZ licence an asset), valid class 310T licence, valid class 310S licence and have 5 years of related experience. Class 421A licence an asset. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $37.07. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than January 23, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

640 IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of

Caroline Ann French

Caroline passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on December 6th, 2024 surrounded by family. Our tremendous grief at her loss is tempered by the knowledge that she is no longer in pain. Cherished wife to Murray for a not-long-enough 43 years.

A very special thank you to Dr. Bryan Armstrong and all the doctors, nurses, and staff, particularly the team at the Palliative Care Unit, for caring for her, and about her. Everyone was helpful and compassionate.

Caroline and I spent many, many great years together with family and friends at our cottage on Big Bob Lake, Minden, or skiing in winter, and lots of trips to the Caribbean and Mexico. We enjoyed many road trips to the US, the Maritimes and Newfoundland, a cruise to Alaska, and a few winters in Florida. A Lot of fun together.

Caroline will be missed by her special friend Marcia who gave her love and support to her over the years. They were enjoying a girls' night out together when I met her.

Caroline French crossed over the Rainbow Bridge, reuniting with our beloved dogs, Mitzi, Jake, Molly, Dusty, and Rylee (still here and missing her). One of my fondest memories was that she went to town and came back with a kitten she named Lisa. She provided a safe home to many furry friends over the decades.

For many years Caroline worked as an executive secretary. In 1994 we quit our jobs, sold our house, and moved to Haliburton permanently. She found us a wonderful home, across the road from a small lake, and we bought a local business. We ran the company for many years together as supportive partners and retired 15 years ago.

Predeceased by her parents, Frank and Helen, and her son Robert "Bobby" Weir. She will be dearly missed by our family and friends.

Caroline has been cremated and will be interred at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton in the spring. A celebration of Caroline's life will also be held in the spring, in our backyard where she loved to watch deer crossing our property regularly.

As I signed every card:
All My Love Always
Murray
xoxo

Minden Times

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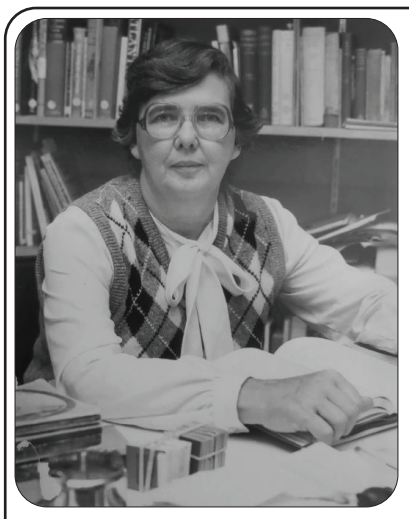

Marjorie "Eleanor" Irwin (nee Gray)

Dr. Marjorie Eleanor Irwin (née Gray), a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and respected scholar, died gratefully and was embraced by the arms of her loving Saviour on Thursday morning, January 9, 2025, at the age of 87. Born on April 29, 1937, in Toronto, Eleanor was the daughter of Joseph Everard Gray and Gladys Malcolm. She was predeceased by her brother Malcolm (1929), her sister Dr. Marion Powell (1997) (Rev. Donald Powell), and her brother Dr. Gordon Gray (2023) (Mary Locke).

Eleanor's life was defined by her deep love for family, her passion for Classical Studies, and her dedication to education. She was the cherished wife of Dr. John Wesley Irwin for 63 years, a partnership built on mutual respect, love, and shared intellectual curiosity. Together, they raised four children: Dr. John Joseph Irwin (Olesia, San Francisco), Marjorie Elizabeth Robertson (Dr. Bruce Robertson, Sackville, NB), Peter David Gordon Irwin (Sackville, NB), and Dr. Andrew James Gray Irwin (Dr. Zoe Finkel, Halifax), all of whom carry forward her legacy of curiosity, learning, and compassion.

Eleanor was the proud grandmother of Raphael and Gabriel Irwin (Köln, Germany), Dr. Phoebe Robertson (Russellville, Arkansas), and Joel Robertson (Lia, Toronto). Her grandchildren brought her great joy, and she cherished each moment spent with them.

A dedicated academic, Eleanor joined the faculty at the University of Toronto Scarborough in 1969, where she made significant contributions to the field of Classical Studies. Her research focused on colour terms and plant names in Classical Greek poetry, as well as the careers of Classicists, with a particular interest in the often-overlooked contributions of women in the field. Her work was widely recognized, earning her the prestigious Ralph Campbell Award twice (1984 and 2015), as well as a University of Toronto Arbor Award in 2013.

Beyond her scholarly pursuits, Eleanor was an avid gardener, finding solace and inspiration in her flowers and plants. She also enjoyed preaching occasionally and played the electric organ for services at St. Peter's Maple Lake, where her quiet yet steadfast faith shone through in every note she played.

Eleanor's warmth, intellect, and unwavering commitment to family and community will be deeply missed. She leaves behind a lasting legacy in both her academic contributions and the love she cultivated within her family.

VISITATION & FUNERAL SERVICE

A Funeral Service to celebrate her life and legacy will be held at the Family Residence on Friday at 12 noon, January 17, 2025. (Visitation one hour prior). A Memorial Service will take place at a later date in Toronto. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at ivcf.ca,1 International Boulevard, Toronto, ON M9W 6H3 would be greatly appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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650 OBITUARIES

John Allen Middleton

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of John Allen Middleton, who left this world peacefully on January 8, 2025, at the age of 81 at his home on Little Kennisis Lake, Haliburton. Born in Toronto, John was the cherished son of the late Victor and Jean Middleton. From an early age, he was surrounded by the values that would define his life: an unwavering love for family, a genuine kindness for others, and a profound understanding of what it means to truly give of oneself.

John's life was one of quiet strength and purposeful action with understated humour. His passions reached far beyond his professional life. Haliburton became the canvas for his love of the arts, where he cultivated a deep connection to pottery that spanned decades, creating beauty with his hands and sharing his creations with the community he adored. His love of orchids is evident in the numerous plants he continues to baby. Service to others was at the heart of who John was. Whether volunteering on the Fleming College board, supporting the Fleming School of the Arts, contributing to the Kennisis Lake Roads Committee, or lending his time and energy to service work in Guatemala, John's life was a testament to the impact of selflessness and care.

Above all, John was a family man. His life's legacy is one of love, kindness, and the deep connections he built with those around him. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Joan Middleton, whose partnership was a cornerstone of his life for 53 years. He will be forever loved and remembered by his daughter, Jean-Anne (Mike), and his treasured grandchildren Joseph and Riley. John was preceded in death by his beloved son Jeremy Middleton (2024) and grandfather to his girls Brianna Clark (Johnny Clark, great grandchild Jeremiah) and Meghan Chatterton. Cherished brother of Don (Maureen), sister-in-law Catherine (John), and brother-in-law Bill (Debbie). He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, their children, and dear friends who were touched by his warmth and generosity.

John attended Leaside High School and Ryerson Polytechnical University before joining IBM where he devoted 30 years followed by 10 years at Airmiles. Embodying dedication and diligence and many long-term friends. His many interests included pottery, orchids, gardening, and great travel adventures with his friends and his dogs who are missing him terribly. John will be deeply missed, but his legacy of compassion, service, and unwavering love will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a guiding light, and his memory will remain a beacon of inspiration for years to come.

Remembrance Gathering

A celebration of life and remembrance gathering will be held on February 1 from 1-3 at **THE COMMUNITY ROOM**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, Ontario. Family and friends are warmly invited to come together to share memories and reflect on a life so beautifully lived. As an expression of sympathy, the family kindly requests donations be made to SIRCH, El Amor De Patricia Children's Home - Guatemala, or One Way Community - Guatemala. All of which were charities close to John's heart. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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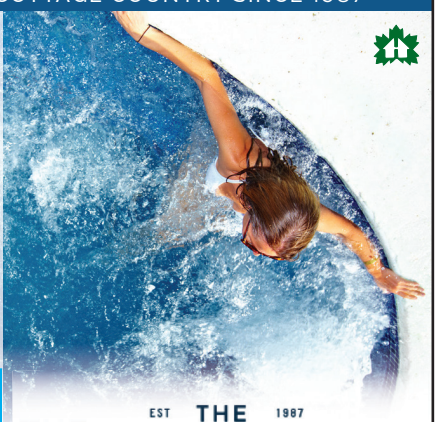

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LOOK INSIDE

Ice racing starts

Last week's cold conditions created the perfect ice for the Kinsmen's weekly races to begin on Saturday.

See page 14

It's official

Laurie Scott of Kinmount is the first and only person to declare her intention to replace Chris Hodgson as Tory candidate.

See page 12

In Quotes

'I wouldn't want to guess how many Haliburton County residents you could now call criminals'

- Gun registry reaction

A PERFECT EIGHT-ENDER!

Sheryl Loucks/TIMES

This team of Jack Hollett lead, Marg Bull skip, Todd Grainger vice and Christine Macartney second, had never played together before a bonspiel between their Minden Curling Club and the Haliburton Curling Club last Wednesday but will never forget it after they scored an amazing eight-ender.

Minden team celebrates curler's dream

by SHERYL LOUCKS
Times staff

The red rock on the button surrounded by six yellow stones presented a difficult dilemma for skip Margaret Bull - how to move the opposition's rock without clearing the house of her own team's rocks.

All eyes were on Bull in a friendly bonspiel between Haliburton and Minden last Wednesday, an annual event. Bull

see EIGHT-ENDER *page 12*

Baby boomers a boon for local building industry

by ALLISON TAYLOR
Times staff

The development of new homes and cottages in Minden Hills is on the rise, as the number of building permits issued continues to skyrocket.

The Minden Hills building department is reporting an 86 per cent increase in the number of permits issued for new homes in 2002 over the same period the year before. In 2001 the township issued 50 permits for new dwellings, and last year gave out 93 permits, said Chief Building Official Fraser MacDonald.

That many permits for new dwellings in one year is outstanding, MacDonald said at last week's committee-of-the-whole meeting.

All categories of building permits, from improvements to new dwellings, increased over the same time period. MacDonald says the total number of permits issued in 2002 was 360. That's an increase of 29 per cent from the 279 permits issued in 2001.

Local builders, who have been run off their feet for the past few years, say development in the Haliburton Highlands has been steadily on the rise.

Dave Pentney of Minden Home Hardware & Building Supplies says there has certainly been an increase in new development and renovations over the past few years.

"We're in a good area for building," Pentney said. "People

see OLD *page 6*

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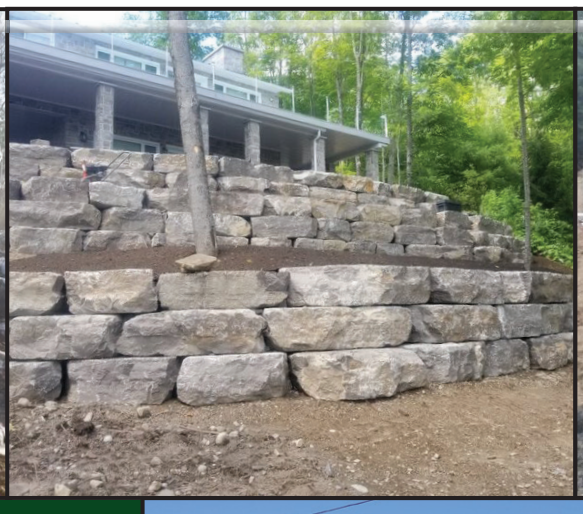

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